

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF JASPER  
JANUARY 11, 2005**

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Jasper, Indiana, met in regular session on Tuesday, January 11, 2005 in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor William J. Schmitt who presided called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor William J. Schmitt	present
Board member Victor J. Knies	present
Board member Thomas R. Schmidt	present

Also present were Police Chief Richard Gunselman, Street Commissioner Raymond Eckerle, City Engineer Chad Hurm, Personnel/Safety Director Charles Schneider, Fire Chief Kenneth Hochgesang, Building Commissioner David Seger, City Attorney Sandra Hemmerlein and Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm.

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm announced that a majority of the board members must be present for a quorum. All three board members were present; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Schmitt invited all present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The board members examined the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 28, 2004. A **motion** was made by Victor Knies and seconded by Thomas Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

**TEMPORARY STREET BLOCKING**

Ed Roelle, representative of Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center requested blocking the east side of Dorbett Street for approximately 4 hours on January 19, 2005 from 8 a.m. to noon. He explained that the hospital would like to place a large crane on Dorbett Street in order to remove their existing MRI magnet and air conditioning unit. Mr. Roelle stated that the hospital would provide barricades and flagmen and that the west side of Dorbett Street would remain open to one-lane traffic.

A **motion** was made by Victor Knies and seconded by Thomas Schmidt to approve the request of Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center to block the east half of Dorbett Street starting at 8 a.m. on January 19, 2005 for approximately four hours while the hospital removes their existing MRI magnet and air conditioning unit. Mayor Schmitt said that hospital personnel should notify the police department and news media of the blockage. **Motion** passed 3-0.

## **PARKING – WEST 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

While Ed Roelle, representative of Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center was present, Mayor Schmitt asked Mr. Roelle if the hospital had any input on the parking problems on West 13<sup>th</sup> Street by the Medical Arts Building. Mr. Roelle responded that the hospital's east parking lot should be available soon and that lot should provide more parking spaces. Police Chief Gunselman said he and Building Commissioner David Seger met with hospital personnel regarding this matter and that he will present a recommendation at a future meeting.

## **MOSQUITO LARVICIDE APPLICATION LOG - 2004**

Street Commissioner Raymond Eckerle presented a report on mosquito larvicide application in 2004. He said the amount of larvicide that had been applied in 2004 was drastically reduced from 2003 and that using less larvicide had reduced costs last year by \$591.50. Eckerle credited this efficiency to training and certification of street department personnel.

## **HIRING OF NEW PERSONNEL**

Street Commissioner Raymond Eckerle requested starting the hiring process for two additional full time employees at the street department. He commented that two employees had been approved in the 2005 budget.

A **motion** was made by Mayor Schmitt and seconded by Thomas Schmidt to approve the request of the street commissioner to start the hiring process for two additional full time employees at the street department, as approved in the 2005 budget. **Motion** passed 3-0.

## **STREET CONES AND BARRICADES**

Street Commissioner Raymond Eckerle reported that he and Police Chief Gunselman have scheduled a meeting concerning problems with street cones and barricades that were moved or run over during the recent high water street closings. He said this problem also occurs at construction sites and asked for some guidance on remedying the situation. Eckerle stated that when motorists move barricades or run over cones, they are ignoring the danger to others who are unaware that the street department has not officially reopened the street to traffic. Police Chief Richard Gunselman reported that many violators had been issued citations for disregarding or moving barricades during the recent floods. Eckerle suggested the City address this matter and possibly establish a policy. The Board asked Eckerle and Gunselman to research this issue and bring forward their recommendations.

## **EQUIPMENT - 2005**

Street Commissioner Raymond Eckerle presented a list of equipment for the street department to consider purchasing in 2005 and requested starting the process of preparing specifications for the items that were highlighted on the list.

There followed some discussion. Mayor Schmitt informed the street commissioner that the 2005 budget has not yet been approved or certified. Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm stated that the city council wants to hold a meeting after the assessed valuation has been set. Mayor Schmitt suggested the Street Commissioner consider using the electronic bidding and reverse auction process for some items.

On **motion** by Mayor Schmitt and seconded by Victor Knies, approval was given to the street commissioner to draw up specifications for highlighted items on the proposed 2005 equipment list keeping in mind using the electronic bidding process and that the 2005 budget has not yet been certified. **Motion** passed 3-0.

### **SPEED LIMIT – THIRD AVENUE**

Police Chief Richard Gunselman reported that he had received a request via the city's website from Mike Verkamp, Crestwood Drive, to consider lowering the speed limit on Third Avenue by Gun Club Road. Gunselman stated that he had informed Mr. Verkamp that this same request had been denied in the spring of 2004, but he would again monitor the situation to see if there is any need for lowering the speed limit.

### **POLICE REPORTS**

Police Chief Richard Gunselman presented to the board for its review the following reports.

Jasper Police Department December Activity Report  
Jasper Police Department Traffic & Safety Auxiliary Report - 2004

Gunselman reported that the Traffic and Safety Auxiliary had provided 764 hours of traffic duty during 2004 at a cost of \$7,338.72 and that the salaries were paid by the organizations that used them. He said that if the City had provided police officers rather than using auxiliary personnel for this service, the cost would have been \$14,500, so the Auxiliary provided a cost savings to the City and to the organizations that used them.

### **SAGAMORE OF THE WABASH**

Police Chief Richard Gunselman announced that Mayor William J. Schmitt had been awarded a second "Sagamore of the Wabash" award. He said this second award was from Governor Joseph Kernan. Mayor Schmitt stated that it was an honor to be chosen as a recipient of this award.

### **PARKING – NINTH STREET AND BARTLEY STREET INTERSECTION**

Victor Knies reported that he had received a complaint from some school bus drivers. Apparently when buses are going north on Bartley Street, they are having difficulty when turning east onto 9<sup>th</sup> Street because of cars parked too near the intersection. Police Chief Richard Gunselman agreed to study the problem.

### **MAN ACRES SUBDIVISION**

Building Commissioner David Seger presented a map of Man Acres Subdivision and the surrounding area. City Attorney Sandra Hemmerlein explained that in 1993 Robert Reyling gave a 20 foot strip of land to the City for the possible extension of Portersville Road. She explained that the platted Portersville Road has since been vacated by the City. Since the City no longer needs the 20 foot strip of land, Hemmerlein said it could be deemed surplus property. Hemmerlein read IC 36-1-11-14, which concerns land transferred to a political subdivision where no public funds were expended. Hemmerlein explained that if the land was given as a gift, it may be given back to the Grantor or the Grantor's successors with their consent.

On **motion** by Mayor Schmitt and seconded by Thomas Schmidt, approval was given to declare the 20 foot strip of land as surplus property and to return the land back to the original property owners or their successors. **Motion** passed 3-0.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Kenneth Hochgesang reported that firefighters, Keith Berger and Mike Theile had recently been awarded the “Save” pin by the local EMS department at Memorial Hospital and Healthcare Center. Mayor Schmitt commended the two firefighters for receiving this award.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Fire Chief Kenneth Hochgesang presented to the board for its review the following reports and charts.

Jasper Fire Department 2004 Activity Report  
Jasper Fire Department 2004 Truck Use Report  
Jasper Fire Department 2004 Monthly Report

During discussion, Fire Chief Hochgesang gave some explanations about the charts and reports.

### **RETIREMENT OF FIREFIGHTER**

Fire Chief Kenneth Hochgesang reported that Firefighter Jim Wendholt had written a letter resigning from the fire department. Hochgesang noted that Wendholt had been with the fire department for 20 ½ years.

On **motion** by Victor Knies and seconded by Thomas Schmidt, approval was given to accept the resignation of Jim Wendholt from the Jasper Fire Department and thank him for his 20 ½ years of service. **Motion** passed 3-0.

### **EASEMENTS**

City Attorney Sandy Hemmerlein presented the following easement for acceptance and approval:

#### Grant of Public Utility and Drainage Easement

Tornado Ted’s Family Properties, LLC by Anthony P. Uebelhor, member – land adjacent to and north of the north right-of-way line of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue

A **motion** was made by Mayor Schmitt and seconded by Thomas Schmidt to approve and accept the easement, as listed above. Motion passed 3-0.

### **CLAIMS**

Claims against the City from December 10, 2004 through January 6, 2005 were presented and examined by the board. Those claims found to be just, due, and owing were approved upon **motion** by Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Victor Knies. Motion carried 3-0.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, a **motion** was made by Victor Knies and seconded by Thomas Schmidt to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

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**Mayor William J. Schmitt**  
**Presiding Officer**

**Attest:**

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**Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer**

Cynthia Kluemper, Recording Secretary